



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 599

January Session, 2013

Substitute Senate Bill No. 729

Senate, April 24, 2013

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through SEN. MUSTO of the 22nd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING A PILOT PROGRAM FOR EARLY VOTING IN A MUNICIPAL ELECTION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section, "election
2 day" means the municipal election held on November 5, 2013,
3 "municipal election" means "municipal election", as defined in section
4 9-1 of the general statutes, and "early voting" means voting in
5 accordance with the provisions of this section.

6 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of title 9 of the general statutes
7 and any regulation adopted pursuant to title 9 of the general statutes,
8 the Secretary of the State may conduct a pilot program for early voting
9 and may select up to three municipalities with a population of less
10 than thirty thousand, three municipalities with a population of thirty
11 thousand or more, but not more than one hundred twenty-four
12 thousand, and three municipalities with a population that is more than
13 one hundred twenty-four thousand to participate in such program for

14 the November 5, 2013, municipal election. If a municipality, by
15 majority vote of its legislative body, decides to participate in the pilot
16 program, the registrars of voters shall mutually develop and submit a
17 written plan to the Secretary in accordance with the provisions of
18 subsection (d) of this section. The deadline for submission of such plan
19 shall be August 1, 2013.

20 (c) The Secretary shall select the first three municipalities in each
21 population category described in subsection (b) of this section that
22 apply to the pilot program by submitting a plan that satisfies the
23 criteria set forth in subsection (d) of this section. The Secretary shall
24 notify each applicant municipality of its status as a participant or
25 nonparticipant in the program not later than September 1, 2013.

26 (d) Each applicant municipality shall provide that its plan for early
27 voting details the following:

28 (1) The hours and locations for early voting starting the fifteenth
29 calendar day prior to election day, and a manner to provide warning
30 to the electors of such municipality of such hours and locations;

31 (2) A manner to provide that each elector who chooses to vote early
32 in accordance with the provisions of this section shall vote on the same
33 ballot that he or she would be voting on if such elector were voting on
34 election day at the polling place assigned to the elector for voting on
35 election day;

36 (3) A manner to provide that after the elector has voted his or her
37 ballot the elector shall place the ballot in a secured ballot depository
38 receptacle;

39 (4) A manner and time for counting ballots cast as part of early
40 voting under this section; and

41 (5) A manner that ensures that each place for early voting under this
42 section is properly staffed with trained election officials.

43 (e) Any elector standing in line at the time that early voting closes

44 for the day shall be permitted to vote and no elector who is not in line
45 at such time shall be permitted to enter such line.

46 (f) Election officials for early voting shall be selected in the same
47 manner as provided under chapter 146 of the general statutes. Before
48 the period of early voting, the registrars of voters and certified head
49 moderator shall instruct the election officials in accordance with the
50 provisions of section 9-249 of the general statutes.

51 (g) The process of voting under section 9-261 of the general statutes
52 shall apply as nearly as possible to the process of early voting
53 conducted under this section.

54 (h) No person shall solicit on behalf of or in opposition to the
55 candidacy of another or himself or herself or on behalf of or in
56 opposition to any question being submitted at the election, or loiter or
57 peddle or offer any advertising matter, ballot or circular to another
58 person within a radius of seventy-five feet of any outside entrance in
59 use as an entry to any municipal building used for early voting during
60 the hours of early voting or in any corridor, passageway or other
61 approach leading from any such outside entrance to such location or in
62 any room opening upon any such corridor, passageway or approach.

63 (i) No ballot cast during the period of early voting pursuant to this
64 section shall be counted prior to the closing of the polls on election
65 day.

66 (j) The Secretary of the State shall assess the pilot program
67 conducted in accordance with the provisions of this section. Not later
68 than January 1, 2014, the Secretary shall report, in accordance with the
69 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, on such assessment
70 of the program and include in such report any legislative
71 recommendations needed to create a permanent early voting program
72 for municipalities, to the joint standing committee of the General
73 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to elections.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
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Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In subsection (b), changed "greater than" to "more than" for consistency with the general statutes. Moved the deadline for submission of written plan from subsection (c) to subsection (d), for clarity.

GAE *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 14 \$	FY 15 \$
Secretary of the State	GF - Cost	30,000	None

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 14 \$	FY 15 \$
Various Municipalities	Potential Cost	See Below	None

Explanation

The bill establishes a pilot program for early voting in up to nine municipalities starting 15 days before the November 2013 municipal elections.

There is an anticipated cost to the Secretary of the State of \$30,000 in FY 14 for administering the pilot program. These costs include both personnel and material support for the program and subsequent assessment.

The bill may result in a cost to municipalities participating in the program. The cost will be dependent upon the size of the municipality, number of early voting locations, and specific operational characteristics of each location opened for early voting.

The Out Years

As this is a pilot program for the November 2013 election only, there are no costs in the out years.

OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 729

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IN A MUNICIPAL ELECTION.***

SUMMARY:

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze Special Acts.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 9 Nay 5 (04/05/2013)